

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
FEA-01 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01
ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13
JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01
PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /170 W
-----111346 200602Z /21 ,

R 191200Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7874

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 17036

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: ITALIAN VIWS ON LOS CONFERENCE AND AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S
PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 238616, (B) STATE 239529

1. SUMMARY: GOI VIEWS RESULTS OF LAST LOS SESSION AS
"GENERALLY POSITIVE" BUT SHARES US CONCERN ABOUT DEEP
SEABED MINING TEXT. WHILE UNDERSTANDING OF ADMINISTRATION
SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION ON SEABED MINING, ITALIANS
HOPE THAT CONGRESS WILL AWAIT OUTCOME OF SPRING LOS
SESSION BEFORE PASSING LEGISLATION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN DISCUSSION OCT. 18 OF LOS ISSUES, MFA DIRECTOR
FOR LOS AFFAIRS FERRETTI SAID THAT ITALIANS -- ALONG WITH
THEIR EC PARTNERS -- VIEW RESULTS OF SIXTH SESSION OF LOS
CONFERENCE AS "GENERALLY POSITIVE". FERRETTI CITED
AGREEMENTS REACHED ON FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION AND ON ECONOMIC
ZONE AS EXAMPLES OF GOOD PROGRESS MADE DURING SESSION. GOI
DOES, HOWEVER, SHARE US CONCERN ABOUT CONTENT OF TEXT ON
DEEP SEABED MINING AND ABOUT WAY IN WHICH TEXT WAS
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PRODUCED. FERRETTI ADDED THAT WHILE ITALY AND US
GENERALLY SEE EYE TO EYE ON DEEP SEABED MINING ISSUES,
ITALY, AS A "SECOND GENERATION" SEABED MINING POWER,
IS "LESS OPPOSED" THAN THE US TO PROPOSALS LIMITING
THE ACCESS OF ANY ONE COUNTRY TO THE SEABED. IN THIS
CONTEXT FERRETTI ADDED THAT THE GOI IS CONSIDERING
FORMATION OF A CONSULTATIVE BODY TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES

OF CONCERNED MINISTRIES AND OF INDUSTRIAL REPRESENTATIVES (ENI, AGIP, FIAT, ETC.) TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF ITALIAN MEMBERSHIP IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM TO UNDERTAKE DEEP SEABED MINING PROJECTS.

3. AS TO POSSIBILITY OF US LEGISLATION ON DEEP SEABED MINING, FERRETTI SAID THAT ITALIANS BELIEVE TIME IS NOT RIPE FOR SUCH A MOVE AND WOULD PREFER THAT THE US GIVE LOS ONE MORE CHANCE. ITALIANS WOULD FULLY UNDERSTAND US GOING AHEAD WITH NATIONAL LEGISLATION -- AND INDEED MIGHT INTRODUCE THEIR OWN LEGISLATION -- IF SPRING LOS SESSION DOES NOT PRODUCE A BETTER DEEP SEABEDS MINING TEXT. FOR NOW, ITALIANS WOULD PREFER TO CONSULT WITH OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND TRY TO RESOLVE IMPASSE, RATHER THAN GO IT ALONE.

4. IN GENERAL FERRETTI SAW FEW DIVERGENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN US AND ITALIAN ON LOS. ONLY MAJOR DIFFERENCE HE COULD CITE CONCERNED QUESTION OF WORKING TOWARD INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS RATHER THAN RESORTING TO NATIONAL LEGISLATION. FERRETTI SAID ITALIANS FEAR THAT REGULATIONS IMPOSED BY INDIVIDUAL NATIONS WOULD BE CUMBERSOME AND MIGHT BE MUTUALLY CONTRADICTORY. FOR EXAMPLE, SHIP SPECIFICATIONS NECESSARY TO MEET THE ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS OF ONE COUNTRY MIGHT BE IN DIRECT CONTRAVENTION OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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REGULATIONS OF ANOTHER. NATIONAL LEGISLATION MIGHT THUS NOT ONLY RESULT IN UNECONOMIC USE OF EQUIPMENT BUT ALSO IMPERIL FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION. FERRETTI CONCLUDED BY EMPHASIZING SIMILARITY OF US AND GOI APPROACH TO LOS. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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